

## NEWS.

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DR. E. B. COPELAND, assistant professor of botany in the University of West Virginia, has been advanced to a professorship.

DR. HUGO ZUKAL, professor of plant pathology in the Hochschule für Bodencultur in Vienna, died on February 15. (Bot. Cent.)

THE OFFICERS of the Botanical Society of America for 1900-1 are as follows: *President*, B. D. Halsted; *Vice President*, R. A. Harper; *Treasurer*, C. A. Hollick; *Secretary*, G. F. Atkinson; *Councillors*, B. D. Halsted, R. A. Harper, C. A. Hollick, G. F. Atkinson, B. L. Robinson, C. E. Bessey, and F. V. Coville; *Custodian of Library*, W. Trelease.

THE DIVISION of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology has just completed an extensive series of experiments at Halstead, Kan., in connection with work on the development of new forms of cereals by breeding. The work was planned by Mr. M. A. Carleton, but owing to his absence abroad it was carried on by Mr. D. B. Swingle, a graduate of the Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kan.

WM. J. FOX, of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, has had the good fortune to discover in the library of the academy a copy of that very rare work of Rafinesque entitled *Western Minerva, or American Annals of Knowledge and Literature*. Rafinesque proposed to publish a journal with this title, but only a single number appeared, bearing the date 1821, and, being suppressed by the printer, Rafinesque states that he only saved three copies of it. Mr. Fox gives a very complete account of the contents of the work in *Science* of August 10, 1900. It is a small quarto and contains vi + 82 pages, and is of interest to botanists in that it contains new names for plants which have not yet been noted in synonymy. It is an interesting question whether a work suppressed by the printer, and presumably never distributed, can be counted as a publication. In the copy discovered by Mr. Fox some of the pages are original proof sheets, being printed on one side only, containing corrections, and also such notes as "I must see another proof." It would seem necessary to distinguish between publication and printing, and the *prima facie* evidence is that this discovered pamphlet, although of great interest, does not come within the definition of a publication when the question of priority is concerned. Only four pages are given to botany, and Mr. Fox gives very fully their contents.